

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**1-20. (Cancelled)**

**21. (New)** A battery pack comprising:

- a battery having a safety valve opening surface;
- a safety valve opening formed in said safety valve opening surface;
- a safety valve disposed in said safety valve opening;
- a molded resin region attached to said battery safety valve opening surface; and
- an insulating material disposed between said safety valve opening surface and said molded resin region so as to cover said safety valve opening,

wherein said insulating material includes a through hole located at a position that is separate from said safety valve opening, and said molded resin region is connected to said battery safety valve opening surface through said through hole.

**22. (New)** A battery pack as claimed in claim 21, wherein said insulating material comprises a rigid plate.

**23. (New)** A battery pack as claimed in claim 21, wherein said insulating material is a glass fiber reinforced epoxy plate.

**24. (New)** A battery pack as claimed in claim 21, wherein said insulating material is attached to said battery safety valve opening surface via double-sided adhesive tape.

25. (New) A battery pack as claimed in claim 21, wherein said insulating material is disposed within the perimeter of said battery safety valve opening surface, and said molded resin region is attached to said safety valve opening surface about the perimeter of said insulating material.

26. (New) A battery pack as claimed in claim 21, wherein said battery safety valve opening surface has a protruding electrode terminal, and said through hole in said insulating material is located between said protruding electrode terminal and said safety valve opening.

27. (New) A battery pack as claimed in claim 21, wherein a formed plastic piece is attached to a surface of said battery opposite said safety valve opening surface, and one or more grooves are provided on a surface of said formed plastic piece.

28. (New) A battery pack as claimed in claim 27, wherein said surface of said formed plastic piece has a symmetric shape.

29. (New) A battery pack as claimed in claim 27, wherein said formed plastic piece has one or more alignment ribs which contact said battery and align said formed plastic piece in a fixed position.

**30. (New)** A battery pack comprising:

a battery having a safety valve opening surface;

a safety valve opening formed in said safety valve opening surface;

a safety valve disposed in said safety valve opening;

a molded resin region secured to said battery safety valve opening surface; and

an insulating material disposed between said safety valve opening surface and said molded resin region so as to cover said safety valve opening,

wherein said insulating material includes a projection extending into said molded resin region, and said projection couples said insulating material and said molded resin region.

**31. (New)** A battery pack as claimed in claim 30, wherein said projection has a reverse-tapered shape which becomes wider towards an end, a hook shape, a rod shape with a plurality of projections provided on a surface, or a rod shape provided with cavities or through-holes.

**32. (New)** A battery pack as claimed in claim 30, wherein said insulating material has a through hole located at a position separated from said safety valve opening, and said molded resin region extends through said through hole to said battery safety valve opening surface.

**33. (New)** A battery pack as claimed in claim 32, wherein said battery safety valve opening surface has a protruding electrode terminal and said through hole in said insulating material is located between said protruding electrode terminal and said safety valve opening.

34. (New) A battery pack as claimed in claim 30, wherein said insulating material is a rigid plate that does not deform under a pressure exerted by an injection molding of said resin on said battery safety valve opening surface.

35. (New) A battery pack as claimed in claim 34, wherein said insulating material is a glass fiber reinforced epoxy plate.

36. (New) A battery pack as claimed in claim 30, wherein said insulating material is attached to said battery safety valve opening surface via double-sided adhesive tape.

37. (New) A battery pack as claimed in claim 30, wherein said insulating material has a perimeter, which is superposed on said battery safety valve opening surface, and said molded resin region is attached to said safety valve opening surface about the perimeter of said insulating material.

38. (New) A battery pack as claimed in claim 30, wherein a formed plastic piece is attached to a surface of said battery opposite to said safety valve opening surface, and one or more pull-out grooves are provided on a surface of said formed plastic piece.

39. (New) A battery pack as claimed in claim 38, wherein said surface of said formed plastic piece has a symmetric shape.

40. (New) A battery pack as claimed in claim 38, wherein said formed plastic piece has one or more alignment ribs that contact said battery to align said formed plastic piece in a fixed position.